

Montana Legislature

Finance and Claims Committee

Chairman: Keith Bales

Members of the Committee:

Dave Lewis, Gregory Barkus, Debby Barrett, John Brenden, John Brueggeman, Mke Cooney, John Esp., Steve Gallus, Ken Hansen, Bob Hawks, Rick Laible, Jim Peterson, Rick Ripley, Trudi Schmidt, Mitch Tropila, David Wanzenried, Carol Williams, Ryan Zinke

Thank you for serving our state during this difficult time and for being willing to make decisions and set priorities for Montana. After listening to many committee meetings and Legislative Sessions over the internet, I feel it is necessary for me to give to you as quickly as possible the following valuable information in order to help you make more informed decisions. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Submitted for Big Sandy Activities, Inc.

Day Treatment Center

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Contact

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Summary of Day Program Services—Serving for 37 years!

Big Sandy Activities, Inc. Lorrie Merrill Ex. Director

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- I. Big Sandy Activities, Inc. (BSA) is a not-for-profit agency that provides state-mandated services and support to 21 developmentally disabled clients, each of whom suffers from one or more mental, physical, or emotional disabilities. The current Day Activity Program center was originally constructed as a wood frame farm shop building in the early 1980's. Architects from CTA in Great Falls have determined it to be out of compliance in 19 major areas including:
 - air quality,
 - food safety,
 - fire safety,
 - ADA compliance,
 - Inadequate space for a wide range of required uses which prohibits BSA to comply with Medicaid Definition of Service.

BSA simply wanted to build on a room only to discover the law requires we fix every area which is out of compliance while remodeling.
- II. Within the last three years BSA Day Activity Program can only bill, with the current rates system and Medicaid definition of Service, for the following services:
 - Work—supporting individuals with DD by helping them find employment or work at workshop settings. Very few of the clients at BSA have the physical ability to work. A person does not move to Big Sandy if they want to work.
 - Training—to learn new skills or maintain current levels. Clients at BSA have limited ability to learn new skills and many are losing abilities because of natural aging.
 - Active Treatment—Health and Safety activities, including but not limited to PT, Range of Motion, Therapeutic Positioning, Massage, Sensory stimulation. This service is the most vital and obtainable for BSA clientele.
- III. BSA was awarded \$450,000 from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This project scored #2 out of 20 applications in the CDBG ranking completed last fall. BSA also applied for a USDA Rural Development loan for \$713,198.00. With the down slide of the economy and because of the current rate reimbursement BSA will not have sufficient financial capacity to carry any loan. This development effectively eliminates the opportunity for BSA to comply with mandated requirements of service.
- IV. Besides the obvious concerns for individuals served at BSA. The economic impact to the town of Big Sandy and Chouteau County is enormous. BSA currently has 45 employees which is the second largest employer in Big Sandy. We directly impact 10% of the population. Our fiscal (multiplier) impact to the area economy is \$3,690,000.
- V. This is a shovel ready project which will save jobs and create new ones in a rural community affecting low income individuals. Although the issue is complex the answer is easy.

BIG SANDY ACTIVITIES, INC.

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